MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) 62 Sub-Inspectors were appointed at the reorganisation of the Excise Department in 1098. No additional expenditure was incurred thereby.

(*b*) Number of places abolished in the cadre of

	Inspectors	...	18
Do.	Petty Officers	...	50.
Do.	Peons	...	116.

(*c*) Two additional Inspectors were sanctioned since the reorganisation of 1098. Subsequently, the posts of two Excise Inspectors were abolished with effect from 1-9-1107 due to retrenchment.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

Road to Arakkal kadavu from Edapalli.

113. MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are in receipt of petitions from the people of Edapalli regarding a road from Edapalli to Arakkal *kadavu*, dated 29-4-1107, 3-5-1107, 26-8-1107 and 3-10-1107;

(*b*) the action taken by them on the petitions;

(*c*) whether this road was provided for in the Budget for 1106;

(*d*) if the answer to part (*c*) is in the affirmative, the amount provided for;

(*e*) why it was not worked up;

(*f*) whether the road has been surveyed;

(*g*) whether the owners of the lands have surrendered the lands free of cost; and

(*h*) whether the road is provided for in the budget by the Division Officer?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes, though some of the dates do not agree.

(*b*) The Revenue Department is arranging to get written statements from the people willing to surrender the lands free of compensation for the road and also to take steps to evict encroachments.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Rs. 1,000.

(*e*) Because the estimate for the road was not prepared and sanctioned.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) No.

(*h*) This road is not provided for in the Budget for 1108.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): With reference to the answer to part (*e*), may I know whether it is the usual practice to include works in the budget without estimates being prepared for them?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Sometimes it is done like that.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): Who is the officer responsible for the preparation of estimates?

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MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The Chief Engineer.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): In this particular case, why was the amount provided in the budget allowed to lapse without the preparation of the estimate, although the work had been sanctioned?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Because, all the conditions necessary for carrying out the work had not been satisfied.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): The only reason given in the answer is that the estimate had not been prepared. Why was there so much delay in the preparation of the estimate?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): May I refer the member to part (*b*) of the answer where it is stated :—

"The Revenue Department is arranging to get written statements from the people willing to surrender the lands free of compensation for the road and also to take steps to evict encroachments."

It is only after the eviction of encroachments that we can know how much land would be required for the road. It is only then that a proper estimate can be prepared.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): Is that the reason why the estimate was not prepared?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

Wet lands in the Valiakulam ela.

114. MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state the number of acres of wet lands in the Valiakulam *ela*?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is reported by the Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner that there is no *ela* by the name "Valiakulam Ela," but that there is a tank by name Valiakulam in the Eraniel pakuthi, Kalkulam taluk. This Valiakulam lies contiguous to another tank called Putukulam, and these two tanks together have under them an *ayacut* area of 58 acres and 80 cents of wet lands.

Mr. Hilkiah's taking part in the last general election to the Legislative Council.

115. MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether Mr. Hilkiah, Medical Officer in the District Hospital, Tuckalai, took a keen interest in the last general election to the Legislative Council; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the action taken by them thereon?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The Government are not aware of it.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), this does not arise.

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